

Gov. Engler of Michigan refused to approve the Greektown casino proposal, formally rejecting it on June 27, 1995. In early 1996, when the DNC solicited a \$250,000 contribution from the tribe, the Sault Ste. Marie requested DNC assistance in enlisting White House support for their position that DOI could ignore Engler's veto. At the behest of the DNC, Ickes made himself available to tribal representatives at a DNC event to discuss briefly the tribe's arguments. Unlike the Wampanoag and Pequot matters, however, there is no evidence that Ickes took any action to influence DOI's consideration of the Sault Ste. Marie's pending issues.

During August 1996, after providing its own response to McCain, the White House Counsel's Office was aware of the progress of Babbitt's response to the Senator. Kagan communicated with one of the primary drafters of Babbitt's letter to McCain, DOI Associate Solicitor Robert Anderson, forwarding information about this issue to Anderson on August 5, at his request.<sup>613</sup> On Aug. 23, Anderson sent Kagan a draft of the Babbitt response. On the facsimile cover sheet attaching the draft letter, Anderson wrote: "Elena, We intend to send this out today. Please call after you read this. Thx, Bob." Anderson stated that the Department was soliciting White House input on Babbitt's response to McCain. Neither Anderson nor Kagan recall discussing the letter after he sent the draft to Kagan on Aug. 23, though Anderson stated they may have discussed it. There is no evidence of any other discussions within the White House, or between White House and Interior staff, concerning Babbitt's response to McCain.

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<sup>613</sup>Kagan recalls that she forwarded to Anderson a copy of Ickes' Aug. 1 response to McCain, and a copy of that document did appear in White House records with Kagan's handwritten fax cover sheet. An identical copy of the fax cover sheet was in Kagan's own White House file on the McCain inquiry, directly in front of a copy of the Eckstein affidavit, but neither Kagan nor Anderson recalled her sending that document to Interior and there was no further evidence to confirm that she sent it to Interior.